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## Eire Taxation Relief

Dublin, Feb. 24.—The new Eire Government has taken its first step to redeem a promise of reduced taxation made during the general election.

A statement issued tonight announced that duties on tobacco, beer and entertainment imposed in October are to be removed.

No mention is made of increased duties on wines, spirits, furs and cosmetics, the road-tax on motor cars, and stamp duties on estates.

The present Government is a coalition formed by Mr. John Costello after the defeat of Mr. Eamon de Valera.—Reuter.

## PALESTINE COMMISSION

### PI Delegate Resigns

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—Senator Vicente Francisco, Philippine delegate, said today he has resigned from the United Nations Palestine Commission.

Francisco's resignation followed the disclosure last week of growing friction within the five-member commission which has the task of partitioning the Holy Land.

He said he would continue to serve on the commission until his government names a successor. His resignation was sent to Manila four days ago, Francisco said, but had not yet been accepted when he confirmed it here.

#### SLOW PROGRESS

Francisco said he resigned because the progress of the Commission has been much slower than he had expected when he accepted the post. Because of pressing private business in Manila, he said, it is impossible for him to remain away from home any longer.

Francisco is known to have differed sharply with several other members of the Commission on some issues. He denied he resigned because of the internal friction in the Commission's secret meetings.

"My associations with all members of the Commission have been harmonious," he said. "They are all sincere and competent men."

Francisco is majority floor leader in the Philippine Senate and one of the leading criminal lawyers in the Philippines. He said he has had several legal cases postponed until March and April and that it is necessary for him to get home to handle them.—Associated Press.

### Steamer Missing

Stockholm, Feb. 24.—The 550-ton Swedish steamer, Ivan, bound for the Baltic port of Stolpmunde from Malmö, Southern Sweden, was to night missing on her 200-mile voyage.

Stolpmunde is in the area of Germany which was handed over to Poland under the Potsdam Agreement.—Reuter.

### EDITORIAL

### Education In Hongkong

UPWARDS of 200,000 children are now being educated in Hongkong, which figure tells the story better than any words of the remarkable effort made by the Education Department, and Chinese private schools, in bringing the Colony's educational facilities to a level hardly surpassed in the pre-war years. And this, despite the fact that neither King's College nor Queen's College any longer exist, and in the face of formidable obstacles such as difficulty of providing accommodation, staff shortages and lack of equipment. Today the education of something like 6,000 children is directly under the supervision of Government, another thirteen or fourteen thousand are being taught in Grant-in-Aid schools, and yet a further 20,000 or more are students of schools subsidised by the authorities. These are striking figures, indicative not only of the manner in which education has found its feet since the Liberal, but of the important position which schooling now occupies in the affairs of the Colony. The only question in doubt is whether Government appreciates this importance. Reference to the 1947-48 estimates reveals that only about five percent of the total expenditure has been allocated for education, including personal emoluments. This can hardly be described as excessive generosity. Education in Hongkong should be regarded as one of the principal services to the community. If for no other reason than that the money ex-

## UNITED STATES DECLARES ITS POLICY ON PALESTINE

### Urges Security Council To Begin Consultations

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—The long-awaited United States policy on Palestine was laid down here today with a declaration that the Security Council should at once begin consultations with the Palestine Commission, with Britain, and with representatives of the Jews and Arabs, at New York, in an effort to reach agreement on the General Assembly's plan for partition.

Mr. Warren Austin, the United States delegate, making this recommendation, also said that the Security Council must first of all determine whether there is a threat to international peace in the Palestine situation.

He proposed that the Security Council establish a committee made up of five of its permanent members to look into the question of a possible threat to international peace. He urged also that the Council call upon all governments and peoples to assist in the prevention and reduction of disorders in Palestine.

Mr. Austin declared: "The United Nations, as a member of the United Nations, will continue to deal with the question of Palestine in conjunction with other members."

The United States policy will not be unilateral. It will conform to, and be in support of, the United Nations action on Palestine.

"It is of first importance to the future of the United Nations that the precedent to be established by action in this case be in full accord with the terms of the Charter under which we operate.

"In considering whether or not the situation in Palestine is a threat to international peace, the Council should consult with the United Kingdom, which, as the mandatory power, is responsible for the protection of Palestine."

Under the Charter, he said, the Council was responsible for determining the existence of any threat to peace.

**COUNCIL MUST ACT**  
"If it makes such a determination with respect to the situation in Palestine, the Council is required by the Charter to act.

**MORTAR SHELLS FIRED INTO POLICE COMPOUND**  
Jerusalem, Feb. 24.—Jewish mortars threw three-inch shells into the Palestine police compound just before noon on Tuesday.

One of the shells hit a post office nearby and another blasted the roof of a small building in the police billets area.

There were no casualties. The mortar blasts set off the alarm sirens for the second time. The first after followed the roadmiring of a Jewish bus being used to haul bread to the beleaguered Meikor Haim settlements in the Jerusalem outskirts.

Rifle and automatic fire have been heard throughout Jerusalem most of the morning. A series of bursts punctuated the "All clear" shout after the mortar attack.

Police officially said the three-inch mortar shells came from the Jewish area of Jerusalem which was shattered by a bomb at dawn on Sunday.

Rescue workers are still digging into the debris of the Atlantic Hotel and engineers are planning to haul down some of the walls made treacherous by the force of the blast.

A Jewish Agency spokesman told a news conference:

"There is no doubt in our minds that the Ben Yehuda bombing was perpetrated by British personnel. It is in the essence of such attacks to make it impossible to determine the identity of the attackers but we are continuing our investigation in the belief that they were British."

#### SEEK COMPENSATION

It was disclosed that Ben Yehuda Street, merchants damaged by the attack, have formed a committee to approach the government for repayment of losses "since we feel the government should bear the full financial responsibility."

A government spokesman said one mortar bomb landed just outside the maternity ward of the government hospital but did little damage. The hospital is a few yards from police headquarters.

One Arab was killed and two injured in a sten gun attack on a Jewish bus as it sped past the Jewish Montefiore quarter of Jerusalem. Police said five Arabs, including one child, were killed and nine injured when their convoy was fired on by a passing Jewish convoy near Gaza. Four deaths were reported previously.

This makes the death toll since partition 1,370.—Associated Press.

### Third Degree Accusations

London, Feb. 24.—An accusation that British and Allied officers used third degree methods against Germans at the Bad Neuenahr Interrogation camp in Germany was made in the House of Commons today by a Labour Member, Mr. Richard Stokes.

He said he himself had visited the camp, where he found men in cells 10 degrees below zero.

"To my certain knowledge, one man had his legs frozen off."

Four British Allied officers concerned with the allegations of ill-treatment are awaiting court martial.

Another Labour Member, Mr. Thomas Driberg, asked what disciplinary action had been taken against a British officer and non-commissioned officer who had "beat up" Herr Werner Kleindienst, a 20-year-old German student.

Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, the War Minister, replied that the officers' conduct was "improper and unworthy of the British Army."

They had been reprimanded and transferred to other duties or in one case released from the Army.—Reuter.

## U.S. Calls For Elections In South Korea

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—The United States today called for an immediate election in South Korea to establish a National Government despite the United Nations Korea Commission report that it did not support such a step.

The American delegate, Mr. Philip Jessup, told the Little Assembly: "We believe that this will provide the Korean people with their best chance to establish a stable government, reflecting the will of the majority."

The United States has not wished, and does not wish, to perpetuate the arbitrary division of Korea along the 38th Parallel. It urges that a National Assembly, representing all Korea, be elected on a basis of population."

Mr. Jessup urged that one-third of the seats should be reserved for the representatives of North Korea, the Soviet-occupied zone.

"It should unhappy prove to be the case that the Commission could not continue with observations of the elections north of the 38th Parallel, due to the opposition of the Soviet authorities, the result would nevertheless be that two-thirds of the Korean people would have elected their proportional share of members of a Korean National Assembly."

"One-third of the Korean people would have been denied the opportunity to seat their representatives in that Assembly."

"The Korean people and all the world would know who had denied them that opportunity."

Mr. Jessup submitted a resolution to the Assembly, declaring that it was encumbent on the Commission to implement an election programme in such parts of Korea as are accessible to the Commission.

**CHINESE SUPPORT**  
Dr. T. F. Tsing, the Chinese delegate, said: "Members of the Commission feel that they should do nothing to crystallise the division between the North and the South. We should be very careful in our examination of any course of action which we may adopt with particular reference to this point of Korean unity."

"I cannot conceive of any better way for the United Nations to make a contribution to the independence and unity of Korea than the course of action which the General Assembly resolutions set forth."

"Lest there be any misunderstanding on this matter, I wish to make it perfectly clear that my delegation and Government do not wish to see such a National Government adopt an anti-Soviet policy. On the contrary, we would like to see Korea do all it could to cultivate the best friendly relations with Russia."

Today's American request for immediate elections in South Korea—while American forces have occupied since the end of the war with Japan—came after reports from the Russian-occupied northern half that a Northern Korean "People's Army" had been created and a "Democratic People's Republic" declared.

This announcement was believed in Washington to have been made to embarrass the Chairman of the United Nations Commission, who is due to report to the Little Assembly this week on the Russian refusal to allow the Commission into Northern Korea to prepare for national elections.

The American State Department, however, refrained from commenting pending a clarification of the situation.—Reuter.

## Manchuria Is Virtually Lost To Reds

Nanking, Feb. 25.—All reports available here indicate that the Government position in Manchuria is becoming sharply untenable as Communists close the ranks for a full-dress drive on Mukden from all sides.

White battle is underway in what is believed to be the final phase of the Manchurian warfare. Government control of territory in the North-east has been reduced to a precarious foothold in 13 counties and cities, independent despatches said.

The main threat to Mukden is now gathering from the south-east, where the Communists have already succeeded in isolating the commanding centre of Peink, 40 miles from Mukden, while severe fighting is also in progress along the Hung and Liao rivers.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Ministry of National Defence denied as "entirely untrue" the American news agency report that Chinese Air Force planes have stopped flights to Mukden.

**FLIGHTS CONTINUE**  
He said: "Not only military transports, but also civilian planes are maintaining regular flights between Mukden and other cities. The Chinese Air Force Headquarters never issued any order to suspend flights."

General Chang Teo-hsiang, one of the veteran Manchurian leaders, on arrival here yesterday said that the Manchurian situation though critical was not hopeless and the only remedy lay in successful military operations.

Mr. Mo Teh-hui, State Councillor, predicted large-scale military operations in Manchuria with the advent of spring. He urged the Government to make every effort to gain control of the railway lines and areas, and not be content to hold a few points.

Semi-official reports from Hsiao state that the Communists may shortly make another attempt to break into the provincial capital of Peink, which they unsuccessfully tried to capture on numerous occasions in the past. Fairly heavy Communist troop movements towards the city are said to have been noticed.—Reuter—AAP.

### Vote Of Confidence

Paris, Feb. 24.—The French National Assembly gave the Prime Minister, M. Robert Schuman, his sixth vote of confidence by 301 votes against 275—a majority of 26.

The vote was on the Cabinet's decision to refuse a bill calling for the repayment of the withdrawn 5,000-franc notes.—Reuter.

## Canadians Still Want Full Report On Hongkong's Fall To Be Published

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, agreed in the House of Commons here today to ask the British Government to reconsider its objection to publication of some parts of the report of the 1942 Royal Commission which investigated the fall of Hongkong in 1941.

Two Canadian regiments were captured there. For some days, the progressive Conservative Opposition have pressed for the documents to be made public and Mr. Mackenzie King had cabled to the British Government for permission.

The security aspect of the problem commanded all the rest. "Even with the support of strong military forces, we witness daily cases of shooting, bombing and indiscriminate."

The authorities in London stated that inter-governmental correspondence should in future remain confidential.

Mr. King told the House that it was now hoped that the British

Government would agree to the publication of all documents so that the Canadian people could get a full picture of the action.

The demand for a new appeal came from Mr. C. G. Power, Air Minister during the war, whose son was captured at Hongkong, after Mr. King had stated he was prepared to make public evidence which had been given before a Canadian Commission.

The British authorities, he said, had not been able to agree to the publication of telegrams which related to the international situation in the Far East, as they belong to a class of communication framed on the basis that they would not be published.

They said the system of frank and full communications between Governments of the Commonwealth would be prejudiced if telegrams

had to be prepared on the basis that they might be published." Mr. King said.

Leaders of the three Opposition parties agreed with Mr. King, but Mr. Power, who sits on the Government side of the House though no longer in the Cabinet, asked for the British decision to be reconsidered.

As one who played a large part in the assembling and despatching of the Canadian force at Hongkong, he said, he wanted the Canadian people to get a complete picture.

And as one associated with the "Canadianising" of the Canadian forces, he wanted all information to be made public on what could happen when Canadian troops were sent to serve under officers who were not Canadian and not responsible to the Canadian people.

"I feel such information would give guidance as to what policy should be in the event of another war," he said.—Reuter.

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7.15 & 9.30 p.m.

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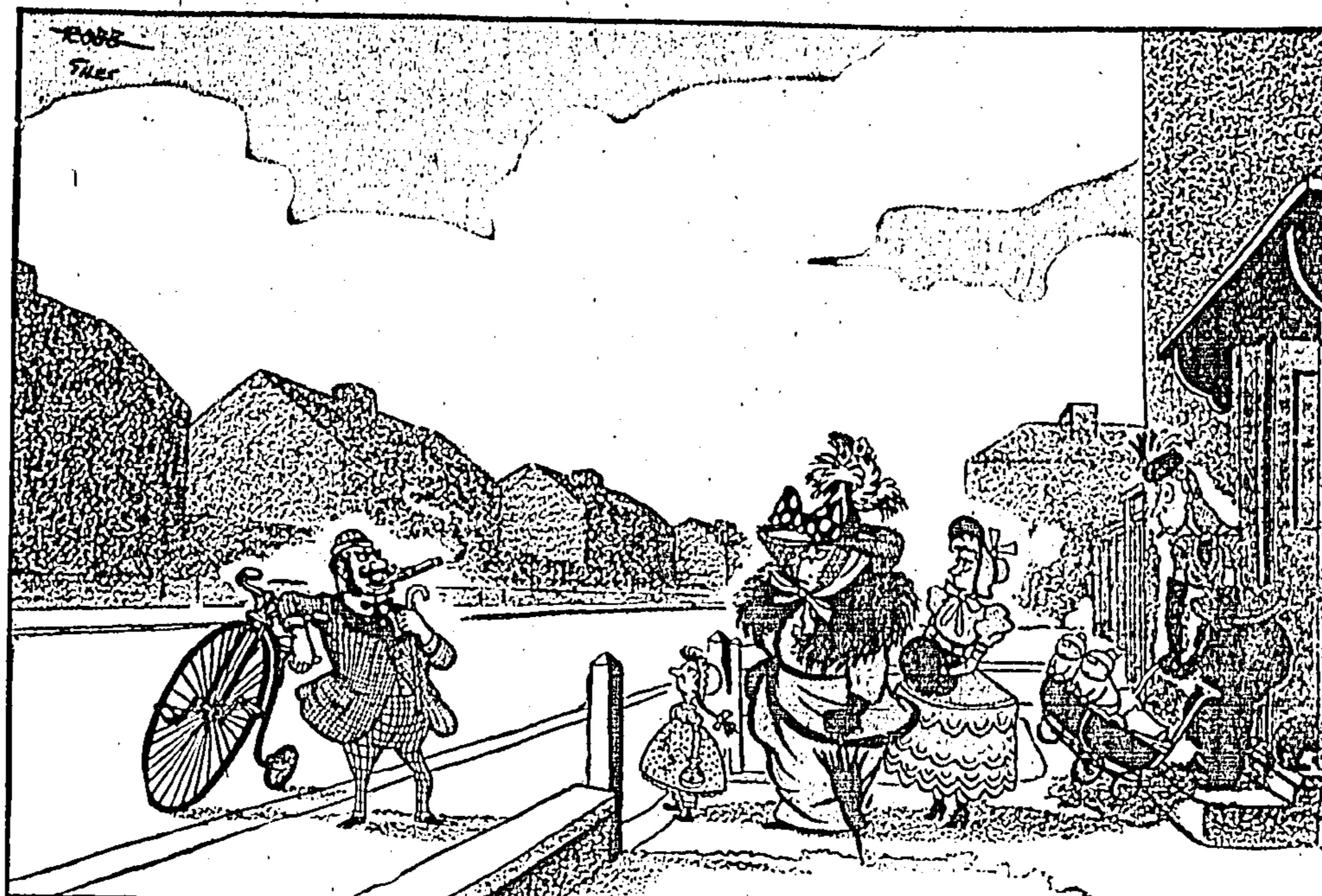
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GEORGE BRENT \* PAUL LUKAS"EXPERIMENT PERILOUS"  
AN RKO-RADIO PICTURE  
COMMENCING FRIDAY  
Van JOHNSON \* Esther WILLIAMS  
in "EASY TO WED"

"O.K. How d'you like MY New Look?"

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

# Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

REPORT from the Cornell University—

"Cannibalism has been the adjuster of the food supply to the population, and of the population to the food supply. Furthermore, it tends to improve the diet. Historically, it cannot be overlooked, but currently it cannot be discussed in polite society. It is a case where a social gain has been achieved at the expense of a nutritional loss."

★ ★ ★

Time: Summer 1945. Every food show in Britain is empty.

Characters: Charles, Celia and Uncle Edward.

Place: Celia's dressing room. Window overlooking garden, back centre. Charles and Celia are seated on divan with its back to window.

CHARLES: You look lovely tonight. Positively delicious.

CElia: Don't say things like that, Charles. Not these days. It sounds quite frightening.

CHARLES: I didn't mean anything horrid—really I didn't.

CElia: But you must be hungry, poor darling.

CHARLES: I'm starving.

CElia: (sighing): I simply don't know what we're going to do. There's nothing to eat at all, anywhere.

CHARLES: Except people.

CElia: Oh, Charles—I could never do that. Never. I'd rather starve to death, wouldn't you?

CHARLES: (looking thoughtfully at her): I don't know.

CElia: (shaking away): Charles, you wouldn't... you weren't thinking?

CHARLES: No, of course not, darling. We love each other, don't we? (still looking thoughtfully at her). You're losing a lot of weight.

CElia: Well, you always liked skinny women, didn't you?

CHARLES: I used to.

CElia: Charles, I wish you wouldn't look at me like that. It reminds me of something I'd almost forgotten, the way farmers looked at cattle.

CHARLES: We're all beginning to look at each other like that.

CElia: But not me, Charles, please.

CHARLES: No, not you, darling. There are plenty of other people.

CElia: (quietly): Charles, let's starve rather than that.

CHARLES: But I don't like starving, Celia. The Government's

sanctioned it to preserve the race, or part of it. Only a few

squirmish people like us are

standing out. And if we go on

standing out, you know what will

happen to us—before we get too

thin. (Celia rises and walks about the room in an agitated manner. Charles watches her).

CHARLES: After all, it's not much

worse than eating plus. I once

met a pig with big brown eyes and

long lashes.

(Celia stops suddenly in her walk).

CElia: That wasn't funny. It was

in filthy bad taste.

CHARLES: Oh, I'm sorry, Celia. I

wasn't thinking of your big brown

eyes and long lashes, really I wasn't. This pig's eyes were reddish brown, not velvety brown like yours.

(Celia continues her agitated walk).

CHARLES: As this is a question of survival, I think we ought to take a more rational view of the whole business. I remember years ago an American chap said, "Cannibalism has been the adjuster of the food supply to the population and of the population to the food supply." Well, he was right. Nobody goes hungry now, except us.

CHARLES: This American chap also said, "Cannibalism tends to upgrade the diet." Well, look at Uncle Edward.

CHARLES: Stop it, Charles.

CHARLES: I won't stop it. Let's face the facts. Your Uncle Edward is looking fitter than he's ever looked before. And what's more, there's much more room in that overrevered house of his now that—well, now that there are fewer people in it.

CHARLES: Except people.

CElia: Oh, Charles—I could never do that. Never. I'd rather starve to death, wouldn't you?

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eyes and long lashes, really I wasn't. This pig's eyes were reddish brown, not velvety brown like yours.

(Celia continues her agitated walk).

CHARLES: Oh, don't be silly, Celia. It's absolutely painless.

CElia: Do you mind if I open the window?

CHARLES: Not a bit. It's getting rather hot.

(Celia opens the window and makes a sign to Uncle Edward, who approaches through the garden carrying a sack).

CHARLES: Celia.

CElia: Yes, Charles.

CHARLES: You know I love you, don't you?

CElia: Of course, Charles.

CHARLES: And you love me?

CElia: You know I do.

CHARLES: You once said you would do anything for me—literally anything. Did you mean it?

CElia: I did.

(Uncle Edward is now at the window and climbing stealthily through the coach themselves.)

CHARLES: Come over and sit beside me, Celia.

(Celia walks over and sits beside him).

CHARLES (taking her hand): Celia.

CElia: Yes?

CHARLES: I'm terribly hungry, Celia.

CElia: Poor darling.

CHARLES: You look so delicious.

Did I tell you that before?

(CElia smiling): Even before the food shops were empty.

(He puts his arms round her as Uncle Edward creeps up on them with the sack.)

CHARLES: Poor Celia. Getting thinner every day.

CElia: Poor Charles, getting hungrier every day.

CHARLES: Do you know what I'm thinking?

CElia: I expect so.

CHARLES: What are you thinking?

CElia: The same.

CHARLES: And you don't mind?

CElia: Not now.

CHARLES: I couldn't bear anybody else.

CElia: Nor could I.

(Uncle Edward makes a sudden spring at Charles, puts the sack over his head, and holds him still.)

UNCLE EDWARD (to Celia): Dinner tonight at 7.30.

CElia: I can hardly wait.

(All performing rights reserved.)

★ ★ ★

## Party conversation

"MARGARET's father says the day we can distill whisky from corn will be the turning point in our fortunes."

"Who's going to be in the bomb disposal squad in the new A.R.P.?"

"If only my husband would say no as often as Molotov shys, no, he'd

made it worse to erect a cowshed which was not going to be occupied by a cow. They said they had no thought of erecting a cowshed; the wood was for a seesaw. They were then given three forms to fill, dealing with the Use of Wood for Industrial Activities. They filled them in all wrong and received a call from a Freightage Rate Adjuster, who said they were constructing a rotatable maisonette. He also consented their little pot of glue, saying that glue without a licence was illegal. A telephone call from Whitehall ordered them to sow clover. They said they had nowhere to sow it. It was then found that the call was intended for a farmer in Leicestershire.

## Old days in Ahabaland

THE witch-doctor has no trouble in getting his patients to take concoctions of herbs. Their normal food is so revolting that they regard any novelty as a treat. If the medicine kills the patient, the disease is pronounced to have been incurable. If he recovers it is due to the medicine. As his youngest wife is killed out of gratitude for his recovery, if the witch-doctor is at all fond of her he usually lets the patient die. And if the wife likes her husband she poisons the witch-doctor. The real difficulty for everyone is to find the difference between poison and ordinary food.

The usual method is to invite the chief of a neighbouring village and let him try the dish first.

# JAP ROMANTIC SUICIDES

By Ernest Hobrecht

ROMANTIC Japanese couples are finding that the course of democratic love does not always run smoothly. Many are turning to the traditional "double suicide" as the only solution to their troubles.

Police estimated that nearly 10 percent of the 103 suicides in Tokyo in 30 days were "love suicides."

Japan's teen-agers thought the Golden Era had arrived when the now "democratised" civil law went



# Marshall Aid Leads To War

—HENRY WALLACE

Washington, Feb. 24.—Mr Henry Wallace, third party Presidential candidate, told correspondents here today that he believed the Marshall aid plan would "complete the split of Europe" and eventually lead to war.

He was answering questions after attacking the plan in evidence before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today.

Mr. Wallace said: "I do feel that the European recovery programme would lead to war."

Asked why he opposed the union of Western Europe, Mr. Wallace said: "I am human, and I suppose I am against it because Mr. Churchill is for it. I admit there are certain geographical factors to recognise, but I see the proposed union as formed against Russia. I have no objections to it if it has the proper safeguards."

He added that to obtain Russian co-operation, America must have "a new approach, including new faces in the executive branch of the government."

Asked what a new President should do, Mr. Wallace replied: "There should be a meeting between the President and Generalissimo Stalin, with diplomatic and economic experts to cover their differences in detail."—Reuter.

## Nordic Countries In

Oslo, Feb. 24.—Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland have decided to take part in the Marshall aid plan and in the proposed working committee for furthering economic co-operation between the 16 countries which attended the Paris Economic Conference. The Nordic Ministers announced tonight at the end of their meeting here.

These four Scandinavian governments agreed that a successful Marshall plan "will be of decisive importance for European reconstruction."

Their representatives—the Foreign and Trade Ministers of each country, the Danish Minister of Economics and the Norwegian Minister of Industry—agreed that they "shared the same view on the problems the Marshall plan seeks to solve."—Reuter.

## Germany In Union

The Hague, Feb. 24.—Germany could not be excluded from a Western Union, Baron Van Bortzelan, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said in Parliament today.

There was no doubt, he said, that Britain wanted to include "in recovered Germany in the Union."

Dutch wishes on Germany would have to be considered, he declared, and Holland had neglected no opportunity of pointing this out.

He warned against too much propaganda for federalism in Europe, saying that the question needed serious study.

Wherever possible, Holland would consider the realisation of federalism within the Charter of the United Nations.—Reuter.

## Three-Power Talks

London, Feb. 24.—The talks between Britain, the United States and France on the future of Western Germany continued in London today without any decision being reached, a French embassy spokesman stated tonight.

He refused to disclose further information. No communiqué on the meeting was published.—Reuter.

## VICTORIA CLUB CALLOVERS

London, Feb. 24.—The first official callovers on the "Spring Double"—the Lincolnshire Handicap and the Grand National—took place at the Victoria Club here today.

The prices quoted were as follows: The Lincolnshire: 10 to 1 Clarion taken and offered; 22 to 1 Kinsale offered; 25 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Cressacup offered; 28 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Flexton, Philadelphia and Provincial, all offered; 28 to 1 Clipper taken and offered; 28 to 1 Commissar offered; 33 to 1 taken; 33 to 1 Patson Saint taken and offered; 33 to 1 Lucky Jordan offered; 40 to 1 Patchouly, Aigle Royal and Bees Gorse, all taken and offered; 40 to 1 Querne Ville offered; 50 to 1 Lord Nelson, Bellemere, All Red and Suldin, all taken and offered; 50 to 1 Dombur offered.

The Grand National: 100 to 1 Ven Rilmond taken and offered; 100 to 1 Rowland Roy and Silver Frame, both taken and offered; 20 to 1 Revelry taken and offered; 22 to 1 Klaston taken and offered; 28 to 1 Weevill taken and offered; 33 to 1 Closcarlo and Loucheon, both offered; 33 to 1 War Risk offered; 40 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Prince Regent, taken and offered; 40 to 1 First of the Dandies offered; 50 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Caughoo and Halycon Hours, both offered; 50 to 1 Lovely Cottage, Happy Home, House Warmer and Jack, all offered.—Reuter.

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

## WAR CRIMES TRIALS CRITICISED

Westover, Massachusetts, Feb. 24.—Judge Charles Wennerstrum, the United States war crimes judge who presided at the last Nuremberg court which sentenced Field Marshal Von List and other German Balkan commanders, declared here today that he was standing by his criticisms of the Allied trials.

He had said the prosecution in the German war crimes trials "failed to attain an objectivity aloof from vindictiveness and from personal ambitions for conviction."

Earlier, Justice James T. Brand, of the Oregon Supreme Court, his predecessor as presiding judge at Nuremberg, had declared that Judge Wennerstrum's criticisms were "a great disservice to the Government."—Reuter.

## ANTARCTIC DISPUTE RUMOURS

London, Feb. 24.—Informed naval circles said today that the British cruiser Nigeria might not arrive before the week-end of disputed Deception Island.

These circles added that the Nigeria may be expected tomorrow in Port Stanley. There she will stay for at least 24 hours for refuelling. The commanding officer of the ship (Capt. D. L. Moore) is expected to use the pause in a prolonged conference with the Governor of the Falklands, Mr. Miles Clifford.

After refuelling, the Nigeria will continue her trip together with the sloop Snares, which has a much slower speed and which will considerably slow down the trip to Antarctica.

It is generally assumed in London that the Argentine Navy may have left Deception Island waters before the Nigeria's arrival. Political circles point out, however, that the presence of Argentine ships in Antarctic waters is quite "immaterial" to the cruiser's mission, which is to give the Falklands Governor any assistance he needs.

**Rumours in Circulation**

The delay in the British answer to Chile and Argentina has given rise to various rumours as to the alleged contents of the notes now in preparation. Thus, it is asserted that Britain would suggest a big international conference on the Antarctic, now as an alternative but as an addition to the British proposal to submit the matter to the International Court at The Hague.

The rumours suggest that Britain might be able to bring three British Dominions into the conference if it is called, especially Australia, which is interested.

Other conference participants might be Norway, France and the United States, besides the interested Latin-American countries.

There is no official confirmation that such a conference is planned.—United Press.

## CRASH OVER DAVAO

### ENGINE TROUBLE RESPONSIBLE

Makati, Feb. 24.—Engine trouble is believed by the management to have been the cause of the Commercial Airlines plane crash on Sunday morning over Mati Airfield, in Davao, which claimed the lives of 13 persons, including six children and the pilot, Captain A. Ruenaventura, a veteran Philippine Army Air Force officer.

The children, sons of wealthy Davao families, had gone aloft for a brief spin in the sky, all for fun. The ill-fated flight was part of an aviation educational programme in Davao.

The airfield itself was inaugurated only last Thursday.

An official report on the cause of the accident is expected to be made public in the near future.

This was the Commercial Airlines' first accident in three years, and it was emphasised that the flight was not a regular schedule hop.—Reuter.

## Cocktail Party & Tennis Films

A large gathering of tennis players and followers of the game were entertained at the Jacobean Room, Hongkong Hotel last evening when Messrs. M. McMaster and D. Blacklock, Directors of Slazenger's, Ltd., were hosts.

Following cocktails, three interesting films were shown. The audience saw a colour film of the 1940 Davis Cup Challenge Round between Australia and the United States played at Melbourne, a black and white film of the Wimbledon meeting, and another depicting how the Slazenger's Australian factories converted themselves from peace-time to wartime production.

The hosts were introduced by Mr. John Pearce, and Mr. Blacklock intimated in a brief speech that it was hoped to arrange for Australia's Davis Cup team this year to visit Hongkong as well as Malaya after they had competed in the tournament.

# FRANCO REPORTEDLY CONTEMPLATING CABINET SHAKE-UP

Madrid, Feb. 24.—Well-informed political sources said today that Generalissimo Franco is seriously contemplating a sweeping Cabinet shake-up shortly. These sources said that the changes would affect almost all portfolios, possibly with the only exception of the post of Foreign Affairs.

Franco believes that his team should be replaced with new blood, and injected with fresh spirit harmonising somewhat more closely with the postwar political and economic patterns of Western Europe.

The sources said that the efforts of the new government will be directed at Spain's eventual inclusion in the European recovery programme.

It is learned that the Minister of the Interior, Blas Perez Gonzalez, recently had two long interviews with Franco, lasting five and a half hours on this particular subject.

At last Friday's Cabinet meeting, changes were not discussed, but due to Franco's attitude towards the general management of affairs, the sources said the Minister obtained the impression that the Caudillo is contemplating new government changes.

It is recalled that changes were never discussed or announced at Cabinet meetings. The rule in the past has been that Ministers are told of their appointment or dismissal when it is published in the official gazette.

## Possible Vice-President

The sources said that Franco is studying the advisability himself of remaining chief of the state, but would appoint a vice-president in the government who would preside at Cabinet meetings to report directly to Franco. Franco would preside over more important meetings.

The sources said it is most likely that the candidate for the vice-presidency today is Blas Perez Gonzalez, former professor of law at Madrid University and a 100 percent Francoite. He has been collaborating with Franco since the start of the civil war in 1936 when he was the juridical successor of Franco's headquarters at Salamanca.

The sources said that Franco might even decide to appoint a head of the government instead of a vice-president and he would remain chief of the state, thus taking the lead in the administration of routine matters. They stressed that this is how the situation appears at this moment, but that it was subject to change because the truth is that one boss, Francisco Franco, is running Spain.—United Press.

## Drain On Dollar Reserves

(Continued from Page 1)

Only when costs of raw materials rise or wage increases accord with the Government's new policy will any change in these prices be approved.

"In considering applications for increases in wages, we shall take a very austere line on profits," Mr. Wilson told a press conference.

Lord Pakenham, in his statement in the House of Lords, said the country was making a real response to the demands for greater production.

So long as there was a reasonable hope of Marshall aid, Britain had declined to take extreme measures of austerity.

"But we have made calculations regarding the steps which would have to be taken if the worst came to the worst,"—Reuter.

## U.S. POLICY ON PALESTINE

(Continued from Page 1)

mate killing, intensifying to such an extent as to make possible the kind of outrage perpetrated two days ago in the very centres of modern Jerusalem.

"Nevertheless, according to an estimate of the mandatory power, a force of 1,000 non-Jewish non-Arab special police is considered as a minimum sufficient to cope with the preservation of law and order in the area of the city after the termination of the mandate."

M. Lisicki said those who ignored advice not to enter the already explosive situation were trifling with the peace of the world.

Should the security aspect prove insuperable, "what use would there be in considering other difficulties still in store?" he asked.—Reuter.

## TRUMAN'S ENDORSEMENT

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Truman, in a statement made on board his yacht in the Caribbean, unanimously endorsed Mr. Austin's statement on Palestine before the Security Council today, calling it an accurate representation of the United States Government's views.

The conference will meet again tomorrow.—Reuter.

## DAB AND FLOUNDER —by Walter



"Does this help madam make up her mind?"

# Removal Of Dock Leads To Protest

London, Feb. 24.—A strong protest against the removal by the Soviet authorities of the Danube Steamship Company's floating dock at Vienna at a time when the Company's assets were under discussion by the Foreign Ministers' Deputies, was made today by the British delegate to the Austrian Deputies' conference here.

Mr. James Martorians, the British delegate, who was in the chair, declared that the British Government "would strongly deplore any attempt to prejudice the outcome of our discussions to the extent of actually removing such property from Austria, and thereby transferring it from one category to another at the very time when the deputies are seeking to work out a settlement."

The British authorities in Vienna, he said, had been told that the Soviet Government had removed the dock, the only one of its kind in Austria, downstream to Hungary.

The American deputy, Mr. Samuel Reber, supporting the British protest, declared that the incident raised the whole question of fixing a date after which no German assets owned by the Soviet Government in Austria should be removed until a four-power agreement had been reached.

## Rolvance Denied

Denying the relevance of the protest, the Soviet deputy, M. Koktimov, said that in any case he considered it premature to conclude that the Soviet Government intended to transfer this asset from the category inside Austria—in which 25 percent of the company's assets were claimed, to the category outside Austria—in which 100 percent was claimed.

The deputies spent the rest of the meeting working in detail through the proposed Soviet claims on oil extraction, exploration rights and the period over which these were claimed, in an attempt to find out what assets would be affected.

The Soviet deputy defended the Soviet claim for a 50-year oil concession by stating that this was based on international precedent, and not on Austrian precedent.

## Austrian Refineries

During a discussion on the Soviet claim to the Austrian refinery capacity of 450,000 tons of crude oil annually, the British, French and United States deputies pressed for an exact statement on what plant would be affected, on the ground that in several cases the interests of their own nationals were affected.

The Soviet deputy said the Soviet claim was based on the refining capacity now in Austria, and made allowance for a looted plant already returned to France by Austria since 1945.

The deputies will meet again tomorrow morning.—Reuter.

## OUTWARD MAIRS

Unless otherwise stated, registered airmail and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mail close before 10 a.m. registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. the previous day.

**CLOSING TIMES** **BY AIR**  
Canton, Luchow, Kunming, Amoy, Shanghai, Ningbo, Hankow, Tsingtao and Peiping 3.30 p.m.

**CLOSING TIMES** **BY SEA & TRAIN**  
Swatow (Sea) 1 p.m.  
Shanghai (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Japan (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Macao, Tsinan & Shekki (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Canton (Train) 2 p.m.  
Shantou, Macau and Sourabaya (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Macao, Tsinan & Shekki (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Kwangtung (Sea) 5 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

**CLOSING TIMES** **BY AIR**  
Shanghai, 9 a.m. (reg); 0.30 a.m. (ord).  
Manila, 11.30 a.m.  
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon, Peking, Tsinan, Nanking, Hankow, Tsinling, Peking, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Kweliang, 3.30 p.m.

**CLOSING TIMES** **BY SEA & TRAIN**  
Macao, Tsinan & Shekki (Sea) 8 a.m.  
Bangkok, Mauritius, South Africa via Durban and Mombassa (Sea) 10 a.m.  
Macao (Sea) 10 a.m.  
Macau, Tsinan & Shekki (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Canton (Train) 2 p.m.  
Formosa, Macau & Shekki (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

**CLOSING TIMES** **BY AIR**  
Shanghai and Amoy, 9 a.m. (reg); 0.30 a.m. (ord).  
Bangkok, Nanking, Calcutta, Karachi, Bairein, Cairo (Nabro), Johannesburg and Marselles via Colro, August 1 (Khowo C.P.O.) 3 p.m.

Mr. Austin's statement, subsequently amplified by a United States spokesman, made these distinctions:

1.—The Security Council has the right to take measures to preserve peace.

2.—The Security Council has no constitutional right to impose any General Assembly recommendation by force.

## TWO SOLUTIONS